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(YOR.523)

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:
receiving a phone address entered by a caller;
determining an entry modality device, from a plurality of entry modality devices, used by said caller to enter the received phone address;
decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry modality device;
consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table;
resolving ambiguities between a plurality of telephone numbers corresponding to a same phone address; and
connecting the caller to one of said plurality of the telephone numbers ~~number~~ that results from said consulting the reference table and resolving ambiguities.
2. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the decoded phone address comprises an ambiguous phone address.
3. (Previously presented) The method of claim 2, wherein said consulting the reference table further includes:
consulting said table using additional information specified by an ambiguity resolving parameter, and
wherein said connecting the caller is only performed when a telephone number results from said consulting.

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4. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reference table comprises a lookup table.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said reference table comprises a database.

6-11. (Canceled).

12. (Currently amended) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:
a memory including program code stored therein; and
a processor connected to said memory for carrying out instructions in accordance with stored program code;
wherein said program code, when executed by said processor, causes said processor to:
receive from a caller an ambiguous phone address;
determine an entry modality device, from a plurality of entry modality devices,
used by said caller to enter the received phone address;
decode said received phone address according to the determined entry modality
device;
select an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;
collect additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

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resolve ambiguities between a plurality of telephone numbers corresponding to a same phone address, using said additional information and said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

connecting the caller to one of said plurality of telephone numbers that results from said resolving ambiguities;

~~determine, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a telephone number.~~

13-31. (Canceled).

32. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modality devices comprises a voice entry modality device.

33. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modality devices comprises a keypad entry modality device.

34. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modality devices comprises a telephone keypad entry modality device.

35. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modality devices comprises an alphanumeric keyboard entry modality device.

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36. (Previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein said plurality of entry modality devices comprises a handwriting entry modality device.

37. (Previously presented) A method for determining a telephone number, comprising:
receiving an ambiguous phone address from a caller;
selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;

collecting additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

determining, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a telephone number.

38. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a phone number of said caller.

39. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a location of said caller.

40. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a predetermined radius of a location of said caller.

41. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises at least one of a latitudinal and a longitudinal coordinate.

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42. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a voiceprint of said caller.

43. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a voice sample of said caller.

44. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a predetermined phrase that is audibly input by said caller.

45. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters comprises a predetermined sequence of sounds.

46. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter comprises automatically selecting a predetermined ambiguity resolving parameter from said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters when a predetermined phone address is received.

47. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to a data base.

48. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to a look-up table.

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49. (Previously presented) The method of claim 43, wherein said determining comprises comparing said additional information to voice sample data base.

50. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the caller's present location.

51. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the telephone number the call is being placed from.

52. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the identity of the caller.

53. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said additional information includes the caller's response to at least one query.

54. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address comprises a phone address that maps to more than one telephone number.

55. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address comprises a phone address that maps to one telephone number, and
wherein said one telephone number is restricted to at least one ambiguity resolving parameter from said plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters.

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56. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, further comprising connecting said caller to the telephone number to which said phone address resolves.

57. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein said ambiguous phone address maps to a single telephone number.

58. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein, when said phone address resolves to a telephone number, the method further comprises connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said determining.

59. (Previously presented) The method of claim 37, wherein, when said phone address does not resolve to a telephone number, the method further comprises notifying said caller of an error.

60. (Previously presented) The method of claim 59, wherein said notifying comprises any of an audio output, and a video output.

61. (Previously presented) A method for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

determining an entry modality device, from a plurality of entry modality devices, used by a caller to enter a received phone address;

decoding said received phone address according to the determined entry modality device;

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consulting a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

wherein, when said received phone address comprises an ambiguous phone address, said method further comprises:

selecting an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;

collecting additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

determining, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a telephone number.

62. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising connecting the caller to the telephone number when said phone address resolves to a telephone number.

63. (Previously presented) The method of claim 61, further comprising connecting the caller to the telephone number that results from said consulting the reference table when said received phone address comprises a non-ambiguous phone address.

64. (Previously presented) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

a determiner that determines an entry modality device, from a plurality of entry modality devices, used by a caller to enter a received phone address;

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a decoder that decodes said received phone address according to the determined entry modality device;

a consulter that consults a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table; and

a connector that connects the caller to the telephone number that results from said consulting the reference table.

65. (Previously presented) A system for determining telephone numbers, comprising:

a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters;

a collector that collects additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

a determiner that determines, using said additional information, whether an ambiguous phone address from a caller resolves to a telephone number.

66. (Previously presented) A system for connecting a user to a telephone number, comprising:

a determiner that determines an entry modality device, from a plurality of entry modality devices, used by said caller to enter the received phone address;

a decoder that decodes a received phone address from a caller according to the determined entry modality device;

a consulter that consults a reference table using the decoded phone address, said reference table being periodically updated by a centralized master reference table;

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a selector that selects an ambiguity resolving parameter from a plurality of ambiguity resolving parameters when said received phone address comprises an ambiguous phone address;

a collector that collects additional information specified by said selected ambiguity resolving parameter; and

a determiner that determines, using said additional information, whether said phone address resolves to a telephone number.

67. (Previously presented) The system of claim 66, integrated into one of a central office, a central controller, and a unit which interfaces between a telephone subscriber's telephone units and the subscriber's connections to a telephone network.